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SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

First Tile Fish in Ten Years.—The United States Fish Commission schooner "Grampus" returned, Aug. 7, from an examination of the deep water fishing grounds south of Martha's Vineyard with a tile fish, the first which has been caught in 10 years. The mysterious disappearance of this fish in 1882 was the subject of considerable discussion and comment at the time, and its cause was variously accounted for. The fish was first discovered in 1879 by a Gloucester fishing schooner, which secured a large number of them. Specimens were sent to fish experts and the markets, and it was at once recognized as a fish of value for its food qualities.

As it was found within a few hours' sailing distance of New York, the fishermen saw that it gave promise of an important additional fishing ground. The fish commissioner, realizing the important nature of the discovery, began a careful investigation of the entire region in order to determine the extent of the grounds, the abundance of the fish and the best means of catching them. The investigation was pursued during the summers of 1880 and 1881, specimens being taken on nearly all the trips made by the commission vessels to this region. The result of these trips showed that the fish were abundant, and that the hopes based upon the discovery were well founded.

In the spring of 1882, however, enormous quantities of this fish were found dead upon the surface of the ocean, from Nantucket to Cape May, and since that time none of them have been taken, despite the efforts put forth at frequent intervals to find them.

In 1889 a systematic study of the relations of the gulf stream and the Labrador current was instituted by the commissioner, Col. M. McDonald, with the idea of establishing a connection between the changes in the temperature of the water and the movements of the schools of fish. During the course of the investigation for the past three years it was found that a deep warm water band was approaching the edge of the continental platform nearer and nearer each year. The idea suggested itself that if this band came in contact with the continental platform throughout its whole extent, the feeding grounds of the tile fish, which was a tropical fish, might be possibly so extended that it would find its way far to the northeast and up to the point where the land naturally left the end of the platform at the position where the fish was first discovered. If, then, this band should be with-

drawn, the first place at which it would leave the edge would be in the great bend of the coast opposite New York, and the water there would be too cold for the fish to live in. The consequence would be that those fish that had found their way farther east, as well as those upon their ground, would be subject to conditions which would bring about the result accomplished; namely, their wholesale destruction.

The "Grampus" went out to the above named region off Martha's Vineyard, and, finding by the temperature observations that this warm area has been very much increased, the trawl lines were set and the fish caught.

It is now the intention of the commissioner to follow up the success by mapping out the warm area to the southwest, setting trawls to determine the relative abundance of the fish, and to put the information in proper shape to be utilized by the fishermen.

—A NEW monthly journal devoted to natural science has appeared in England, and is published by MacMillan & Co. It is supported by several of the younger English scientists, and is ably conducted. It is a valuable addition to our current scientific literature, especially as it furnishes a full opportunity of discussion for naturalists of Neolamarkian proclivities, which has not been hitherto obtainable in the pages of the older journal, *Nature*. We observe a tendency to rather indiscriminating criticism in its editorial notes, but this is better than the suppression and mutilation of articles which has characterized its predecessor in the same field.

—THE Marine Biological Laboratory at Wood Holl has just completed its most successful season. It has had a corps of 17 officers, instructors and assistants, and an attendance of 38 investigators and 62 elementary students; or total of 117.

Among the recent promotions at the Johns Hopkins University are the following: Dr. E. A. Andrews, associate professor of biology; Dr. William B. Clark, associate professor of geology; George P. Dreyer, associate in biology; George H. F. Nuttall, associate in bacteriology and hygiene.

Recent appointments at Harvard University: William Henry Howell, associate professor of physiology; Henry Parker Quincy, instructor in histology; Franklin Dexter, demonstrator of histology; Henry Jackson, demonstrator of bacteriology; Daniel Denison Slade, lecturer on comparative osteology; William Francis Ganong, instruc-

tor in botany; Thaddeus William Harris, instructor in geology; Charles B. Davenport, instructor in zoology; William M. Woodworth, instructor in microscopical anatomy.

The University of Kansas has established a periodical under the name "The Kansas University Quarterly." The first number, dated July, 1892, contains the following papers: Kansas Pterodactyls, Part I, and Kansas Mosasaurs, Part I, by Prof. S. Wendell Williston; Notes and Descriptions of Syrphidæ, by W. A. Snow; Notes on *Melitera dentata* Grote, by V. L. Kellogg; Diptera Brasiliana, Part II, by Prof. Williston.

The Société Zoologique de France starts the year 1892 with 277 members.

Herman Burmeister, zoologist, died at Buenos Ayres May 1, 1892. He was born Jan. 15, 1807, at Stralsund, studied at Greifswald and Halle, and was elected to the chair of natural history at the latter university at the death of Nitsch. Owing to the troubles of 1849-50 he went to South America, and with the exception of two trips to Europe he spent the rest of his life there. In 1861 he became the director of the Museum of Buenos Ayres, and nine years later became the head of the faculty of sciences in the University of Cordoba. He is best known for his early work on entomology and his later papers describing the physical geography, zoology and paleontology of South America.

Chairmen of Committees on Anatomical and Biological Nomenclature.—CORRECTION.—In a circular, "American Reports Upon Anatomical Nomenclature," issued last winter by Prof. Wilder as Secretary of the Committee of the Association of American Anatomists, in the third paragraph of the third page, the Chairman of the Committee of the Anatomische Gesellschaft should be Prof. A. von Kölliker, and the Chairman of the American division (appointed in 1891 by the American Association for the Advancement of Science) of the International Committee on Biological Nomenclature should be Prof. G. L. Godale. Prof. Wilder desires to express his regret for the errors, due in the one case to his own misapprehension and in the other to a clerical mistake.

C. L. Herrick, formerly of the University of Cincinnati, and recently elected professor of biology in the University of Chicago,

has accepted a call to a chair of biology and neurological research in Denison University, Granville, Ohio; Prof. Wm. G. Tight retains his position in charge of geology and botany. Recent gifts of about \$75,000 are to be largely devoted to the erection and equipment of a scientific building.

The Journal of Comparative Neurology will also be published from Granville under the patronage of Denison University.

ERRATA.

On page 637 in the August No. the date 1882 should read 1862. In the review Erlanger's work upon *Paludina* (same number) page 709, line 13 for "mouth" read "mantle;" page 712, line 4, for "chiton" read "Amphineura."